

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A metal piece, having first side and a second side, produced by the method of:

laser peening all or a portion of the metal piece from the first side by directing at least one laser beam onto the metal piece from the first side creating a multiplicity of pressure pulses in the metal piece,

operatively connecting an acoustic coupling material to ~~said~~ the second side of ~~said~~ the metal piece coupling said multiplicity of pressure pulses out of the metal piece from the second side, and

~~laser peening all or a portion of said metal piece from said first side~~
maintaining said fluid acoustic coupling material operatively connected to the second side of the metal piece throughout said step of operatively connecting a fluid acoustic coupling material to the second side of the metal piece coupling said multiplicity of pressure pulses out of the metal piece from the second side,

wherein said fluid acoustic coupling material functions to couple said multiplicity of pressure pulses out of the metal piece into said fluid acoustic coupling material throughout said step of operatively connecting a fluid acoustic coupling material to the second side of the metal piece coupling said multiplicity of pressure pulses out of the metal piece from the second side.

2. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 1, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ first the side creates a shock wave in ~~said~~ the metal piece and wherein said acoustic coupling material couples a portion or all of the shock wave out of ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the second side.

3. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the first side processes rectangular spots on ~~said~~ the first side.

4. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the piece from ~~said~~ the first side utilizes a laser that provides a substantially rectangular spot.

5. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, including operatively connecting an acoustic coupling material to ~~said~~ the first side of ~~said~~ the metal piece and laser peening all or a portion of ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the second side.

6. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the second side creates a shock wave in ~~said~~ the metal piece and wherein said acoustic coupling material couples a portion or all of the shock wave out of ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the first side.

7. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 24 7, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the metal piece from ~~said~~ the second side processes rectangular spots on ~~said~~ the second side.

8. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 24 7, wherein said laser peening ~~said~~ the piece from ~~said~~ the second side utilizes a laser that provides a substantially rectangular spot.

9. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, wherein said acoustic coupling material is a freon compound or water.

10. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim 19 1, wherein said acoustic coupling material is a freon compound.

11. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim ~~19~~ 1, wherein said acoustic coupling material is water.

12. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim ~~19~~ 1, wherein said acoustic coupling material is fluorinet.

13. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim ~~19~~ 1, wherein said laser peening all or a portion of ~~said the~~ the metal piece from ~~said the~~ the first side includes operatively connecting an ablation layer of material to ~~said the~~ the first side of ~~said the~~ the metal piece and transmitting laser light into said ablation layer of material.

14. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim ~~31~~ 13, wherein said laser light is transmitted into but not out of said ablation layer of material.

15. (Currently Amended) The metal piece produced by the method of claim ~~32~~ 14, including operatively connecting a tamping layer to said ablation layer of material.

16. (Currently Amended) The metal piece of claim ~~19~~ 1, produced by the method including the additional steps of operatively connecting an acoustic coupling material to ~~said the~~ the first side of said metal piece and laser peening ~~said the~~ the metal piece from ~~said the~~ the second side, wherein said laser peening is produced by laser pulses alternately directed onto ~~said the~~ the first side and ~~said the~~ the second side, wherein sequential laser pulses are stepped over ~~said the~~ the first side and over ~~said the~~ the second side while alternating between ~~said the~~ the first side and ~~said the~~ the second side.

17. (Currently Amended) The metal piece of claim ~~34~~ 16, wherein said sequential laser pulses are stepped over ~~said the~~ the first side and over ~~said the~~ the second side while alternating between ~~said the~~ the first side and ~~said the~~ the second side on equivalent spots on ~~said the~~ the first side and ~~said the~~ the second side.

18. (Currently Amended) The metal piece of claim ~~35~~ 17, wherein said equivalent spots on said ~~first~~ the side and ~~said~~ the second side are adjacent to each other.